



UNCLASSIFIED



**Presented by the Third Army / USARCENT
Information Operations Section**

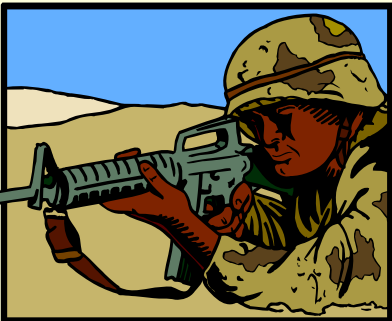
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Introduction

As a family member of the military community, you are a vital player in our success, and we couldn't do our job without your support.

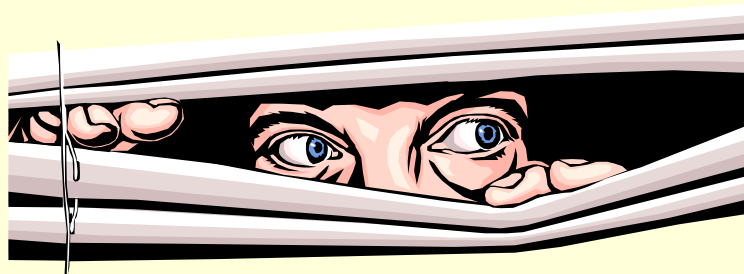
You may not know it, **but you play a crucial role in ensuring your loved ones safety just by what you know of the military's day-to-day operations.**

You can protect your loved ones by **protecting the information that you know.** This is known in the military as **operations security or, OPSEC.**

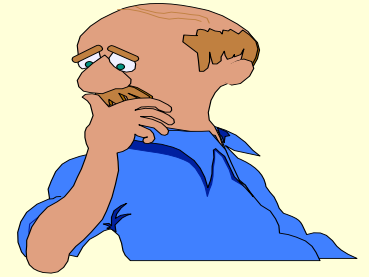


OPSEC is...

... keeping potential adversaries from discovering our critical information. As the name suggests, it protects our operations – planned, in progress and those completed. Success depends on secrecy and surprise, so the military can accomplish the mission quicker and with less risk. Enemies of freedom want our information, and they're not just after the military member to get it. They want you, the family member.



What is OPSEC?



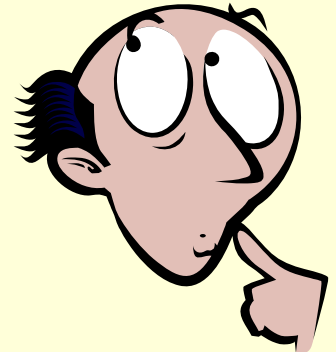
- **Have you ever taken precautions against:**
 - Someone breaking into your house while you are away?
 - Someone stealing your purse at a shopping center?
 - Someone stealing packages from your car while shopping?
 - Someone fraudulently using your credit card number to charge purchases?



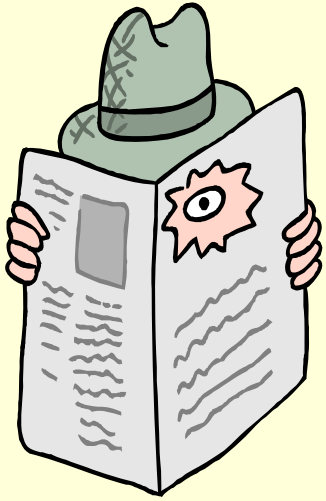
....Then **YOU** have used **OPSEC!**

OPSEC teaches you to:

- **Look at your daily activities from an enemies' point of view**
- **Understand what an enemy might know about you and your family**
- **Assess the amount of risk this places on you and your family**
- **Develop and apply countermeasures, which are ways of preventing enemies from gaining your sensitive information**



OPSEC measures you should practice daily:



- Be aware of your surroundings
- Keep sensitive discussions in designated secure areas
- Keep a need-to-know attitude (if they don't need to know, don't tell them)
- Safeguard sensitive but unclassified information

Limit what you say about...

- **Military movements**
(deployment/redeployment dates, dates of field exercises, flight information etc.)... next Tuesday IS a specific date
- **Any issues with the unit**
- **Anything concerning security**
- **Equipment issues (what, no flak vests?)**
- **Locations of units (it's OK to say they're in Iraq, but not to say that your spouses battalion is at 14th and Ramadan in Kadamiyah)**



The Don'ts of OPSEC

- Discuss people's names and billets in conjunction with operations
- Speculate about future operations
- Spread rumors about operations
- Assume the enemy is not trying to collect information on military operations, you, or your family



Don't do it in these places:

- Clubs/Bars
- Restaurants
- Gyms
- Shopping
- Public transportation
- Basically anywhere someone you don't know could be listening



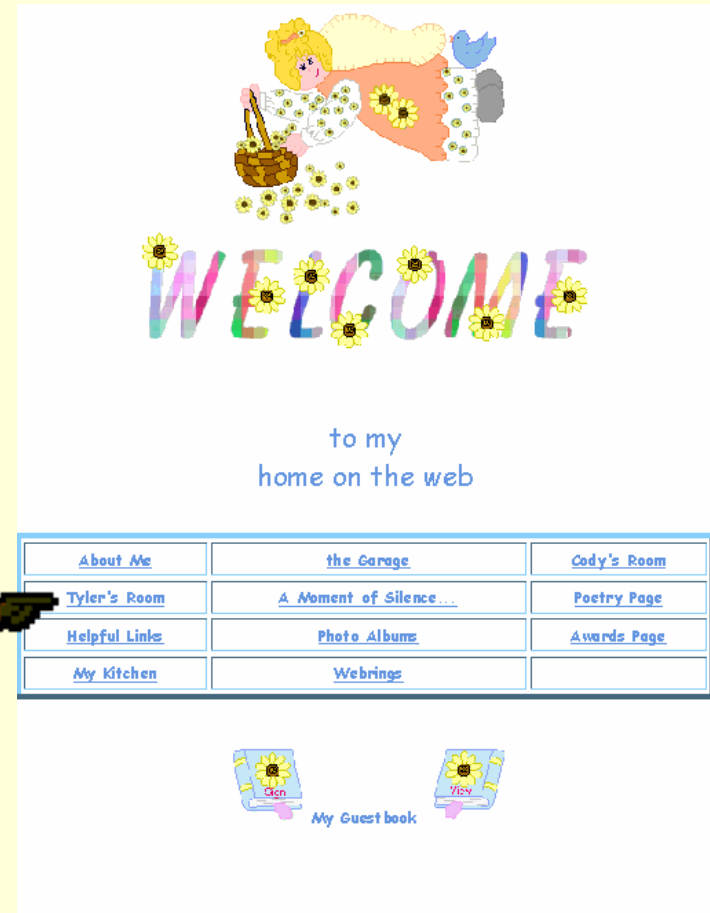
Some Countermeasures...

- Taking different routes to work, school etc
- Changing up your schedule (instead of always doing groceries on Wednesday, change it to different days)
- Changes the times you do certain daily activities (jogging, shopping, going to the gym)
- Destroy trash with personal information on it
- Keep personal information in a safe or lock box



Personal Websites

- Do you have one?
- Does it include information that strangers shouldn't know about your spouse's job and/or your family?
- Do you link it from forums and websites that you frequent?



Some OPSEC Measures You Should Practice Online

- Do not discuss sensitive information
 - E-mails
 - Chat rooms/instant messaging
 - Blogs
- Avoid posting excessive personal information on your family website
 - Rank/MOS
 - Your family members full names
 - Your address
- “A picture is worth a thousand words...” Keep this in mind when posting them



***Remember... Anything put on the Internet
is available to ANYONE on the Internet...
It IS the World Wide Web***



OPSEC in your Daily Activities

Friends and Family



Do your friends and family who are not familiar with the military understand the importance of not revealing what you tell them? Are you sure? Talking with those you do share information about your spouse's comings and goings is a good idea. Not sharing the details is an even better idea.

Telephones

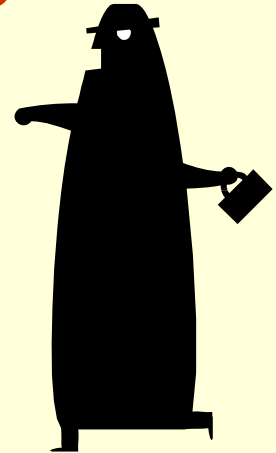
Simply put, they're not secure. Cell phones, cordless phones and land-lines can all be compromised. Censor what you discuss on the phone because you never know who could be listening in on you.



Out and About

Be careful what you talk about when you're out in public. You don't know if the person next to you is friendly or not.

- Joe the cashier at the grocery store
- Your spotter at the gym
- One of your neighbors
- The person that was sitting behind you on the bus listening to you complain about your spouses unit always being deployed and when



*Point is, you **NEVER KNOW!***

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this briefing. Our goal is to provide you with a greater understanding of our security concerns. The information in this guide is not intended to make you paranoid or suspicious that everyone you meet is a spy or terrorist. **But stay alert...** if any stranger shows excessive interest in the affairs of your family members, military or not, please notify the proper authorities.

